

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: VISIT OF UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TEAM

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

1. A 3 MAN TEAM FROM UNIV OF MARLYAND SPENT WEEK OF JULY 8-15 HERE DISCUSSING ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH UNIV OF SRI LANKA. TEAM WAS LEBCMY CYRIL PONNAMPERUMA, A FORMER CEYLONESE, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING TOWARDS THIS END FOR PAST TWO YEARS.

2. A DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED SETTING UP A 6 MAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO APPROVE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AND SUPERVISE PROGRAM. IN COURSE OF SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH UNIV OF SRI LANKA PROFESSORS, OFFICERS OF VARIOUS RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS AND GSL OFFICIALS, SEVERAL AREAS IN AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES FIELDS WERE IDENTIFIED AS PROMISING POSSIBILITIES FOR JOINT RESEARCH.

3. AS ESSENCE OF UNDERTAKING IS ITS PRIVATE, UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY CHARACTER, MISSION LIMITED ITSELF TO EXPRESSIONS OF BENEVOLENT INTEREST. THE TEAM PAID A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR WHEN THEY ARRIVED AND HE GAVE DINNER IN THEIR HONOR JUST BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE. THE PAO AND DIRECTOR OF USEF SERVED ON VICE CHANCELLOR'S COMMITTEE WHICH PREPARED FOR VISIT AND CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IN ADVISORY RATHER THAN PARTICIPATORY CAPACITIES. THE ONLY ADDITIONAL USG ROLE NOW FORESEE-

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ABLE IS POSSIBLE NOMINATION OF VICE CHANCELLOR FOR IVP GRANT,

A PART OF WHICH HE MIGHT SPEND AT MARYLAND.

4. WHILE THIS PROGRAM HAS SOME DISTANCE YET TO GO BEFORE
REALIZATION, OUTLOOK IS PROMISING. EVEN IF CONDUCTED ON ONLY
LIMITED BASIS, IT WILL BE USEFUL; AT OPTIMUM, IT COULD DEVELOP
INTO QUITE SUBSTANTIAL COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE
TWO UNIVERSITIES.

VAN HOLLEN

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